Andhra Pradesh out of which 78 th. ha. is in Warangal district, Since the project being located in lower Godavari sub basin G-10 the Government of Andhra Pradesh can utilise all water of Lower Godavari sub-basin, as per the award of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal.

(e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been asked by Ministry of Water Resources to submit the Detailed Project Report for techno-economic appraisal in the Central Water Commission and thereafter for the consideration of investment clearance from the Planning Commission.

Water harvesting in Rajasthan

2521. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed study has been made of the innovative water harvesting and storage schemes being tried and implemented in the desert State of Rajasthan, which have reportedly helped the villagers towards easy access to and availability of water and even to grow cash crops;

(b) if so, the major lessons, drawn from these schemes for their effective use and implementation at the national level; and

(c) the steps taken to provide such model schemes to other water deficient States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has made studies of water harvesting and storage schemes under a pilot scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" during Ninth Five Year Plan. Under this Scheme, 18 projects have been approved in the districts of Jaipur, Udaipur, Sikar and Jhunjhunu.

(b) The demonstration of these schemes have proved that the water harvesting schemes are beneficial even in low rainfall regions. Public need to be made aware, motivated and involved for successful implementation of water harvesting programmes.

(c) With a view to popularize the water harvesting in other States including water deficient States, the CGWB has approved 172 schemes in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan under the above mentioned pilot scheme.

Inter-basin water transfer

2522. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNITA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering inter-basin water transfer in different regions of the country to tackle drought and floods in the face of growing water demands due to increase in population;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by Government for achieving consensus among basin States; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for early implementation of the proposal in order to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basin in order to optimally utilize the water resources of the country. With this purpose the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. Union Minister of Water Resources heads the Society and Chief Ministers/ Irrigation Ministers of the States are its Members. The Society meets regularly to review progress made in National Perspective and to decide the further course of action. NWDA has identified 30 links under National Perspective for preparation of Feasibility Report and has completed Feasibility Report of 6 links. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co basin